

Application No. 10/016,870  
Reply to the Office Action mailed January 21, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A gas turbine engine fire-retarding device comprising:

~~a machine disposed inside a casing, the casing becoming hot when the machine is operated, the casing in use being potentially exposed to at least one liquid which poses a fire risk when the liquid contacts the hot casing; and~~

a hot section including a combustion chamber therein;

an outer casing surrounding said hot section, the outer casing becoming sufficiently hot during operation of said gas turbine engine to pose a fire risk if a flammable fluid were to contact said hot casing,

a flexible fire-retarding member adapted for superposition superposed directly on an outer surface of the hot casing, said member adapted to cover at least a portion of the hot casing and being fastened in place thereto, the member having a thickness in a first direction substantially normal to said outer surface, said member comprising intermingled filaments forming a porous flame-arresting fibrous matrix network having a plurality of layers of said filaments throughout said thickness, the fibrous matrix; said fibrous network having a volume being more porous than dense, and wherein said filaments are arranged to define a plurality of interconnected define-voids between said filaments, the voids being disposed in communication with each other throughout said thickness and of having a size smaller than a maximum size throughout said fibrous network, and wherein said maximum void size which limits flame propagation of an ignited fluid through said member.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The fire-retarding device gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein the fire-retarding device ~~member~~ is removable from said hot casing.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The fire-retarding device gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said filaments are irregularly intertwined to form said fibrous ~~network~~ matrix.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The fire-retarding device gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said member is entirely comprised of said flame-arresting fibrous ~~network~~ matrix.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The fire-retarding device gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of insulative thermal blankets disposed adjacent one another around said hot casing, and wherein ~~a said flexible fire~~

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retarding member is disposed between adjacent sections of said insulative thermal blankets.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The ~~fire-retarding device~~gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, further comprising an insulative thermal blanket disposed around said hot casing, and wherein a ~~said flexible fire-retarding member~~ is disposed around said insulative thermal blanket.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended) The ~~fire-retarding device~~gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said filaments are metal.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A fire retarding device for covering a hot casing of a machine housed therewithin, the casing ~~housing an machine therein and~~ becoming hot during machine use, the device comprising:

a member adapted to cover at least a portion of an exterior surface of the hot casing, said member comprising a porous flame arresting matrix having a thickness in a first direction substantially normal to the exterior surface of the hot casing, the matrix having filaments defining a plurality of intermingled filament layers throughout said thickness, the matrix defining a plurality of substantially interconnected voids defined therein between the filaments and disposed in communication with each other throughout said thickness, said voids having a maximum-size smaller than a said maximum size being predetermined to limit flame propagation of an ignited fluid across said voids through said member.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is disposed immediately adjacent ~~on the~~ hot casing.

Claim 14 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, further comprising at least one insulative thermal blanket.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein the machine is a gas turbine engine and the hot casing is outer an aircraft jet-engine casing thereof and ~~wherein said flammable fluid is jet-fuel.~~

Claim 16 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said flame arresting matrix has a percent-density of between 10% and 30%.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said voids are a plurality of different sizes, said different sizes all being

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~~less than said maximum size do not exceed a maximum size in at least a direction extending substantially outwardly from said hot casing.~~

Claim 18 (currently amended) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is un-extendable in a second direction substantially parallel to said exterior surface~~removable from said hot casing.~~

Claim 19 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is composed of a metal.